

## Extract

For simultaneous translation of video

Rocca di Papa, December 30, 1984

### **Chiara to the external focolarini: “The fourth way”**

The focolare! What is the focolare? What has it become? It is the basic unit of the Focolare Movement. It is that which in mechanical watches is the jewels, the jewels of a watch. It's a new invention which never existed before on earth. Our Lady invented it first of all to sanctify persons, to respond to this thirst. I remember when I used to take part in a retreat, I used to say: Now I am all aflame. Then I would go home and do the shopping or study. I was happy for about fifteen days, but then the flame would begin to dwindle and become smaller and smaller and smaller. I said: I would need a life in which I am always making a retreat, 24 hours a day... This is the focolare, the focolare, this was the focolare, to sanctify persons. Its primary purpose is to sanctify persons.

And you know that to sanctify yourself, your old self has to die – there are no excuses, your old self must die. If your old self doesn't die now, it will have to die in purgatory. You must make your old self die, your way of loving, your way of wanting. Jesus must live within us. But who is Jesus? Jesus is love.

Just as with a candle, the flame lives by consuming the wax, in us, the flame of the love of God lives by consuming our old selves. Our old self dies if there is the flame of love. Living with my companions in the focolare, I could see that we didn't have just one flame but two.

We lived, as we always say, between two fires. There was Jesus within us who grew because we loved, and there was Jesus in our midst. So between two fires, there is no way out! There is very little you can do to save yourself. In fact, we also put this in the Statutes of the Movement – the norm of all norms, practically speaking, the Rule of all Rules is “Where two or more are united ...” . Practically speaking, our Rule is Jesus, our Rule is Jesus.